# Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area
# Timber Supply Review

## Summary of Public Input

BC Ministry of Forests

Peace Forest District
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This is a summary of the public input received on the Timber Supply Review in the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area. This summary does not assess the feasibility or validity of the input or whether it relates to the clearly defined mandate of the chief forester in the allowable annual cut determination.

# Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area

## Background

As part of the review of timber supply in the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area (TSA), two opportunities were provided for public input. The first followed release of the Dawson Creek TSA *Data Package* and *Information Report* in September 2000. The *Information Report* was a non-technical summary of the draft data and management assumptions that were to be applied in reviewing the timber supply for the Dawson Creek TSA. A 30-day review period, ending October 12, 2000, was provided for the public to comment on these documents.

On October 24, 2002, the British Columbia Forest Service released the *2002 Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area Analysis Report* and *Public Discussion Paper*. The public was encouraged to review and comment on the accuracy of the information in these documents and to provide additional information during the 45-day review period that ended December 9, 2002.

This report summarizes the input received during both public review periods. This information was provided to the chief forester for his consideration when he reviewed the allowable annual cut (AAC) for the Dawson Creek TSA. The first section of this summary outlines the public review process implemented by the Forest Service, and describes the types of public input received. The second section summarizes the public input in sufficient detail to indicate the range of input received. The original submissions (with personal identifiers removed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) can be reviewed at the Peace Forest District (formerly the Dawson Creek Forest District) office in Dawson Creek.

## Public Review Process and Response

Staff from the Peace Forest District, as well as Ministry of Forests regional staff, actively solicited public input on the Timber Supply Review in the Dawson Creek TSA through the following actions:

- 56 copies of the *Data Package* and *Information Report* and 87 copies of the *Analysis Report* and *Public Discussion Paper* were mailed to stakeholders in the TSA, including First Nations, licensees, local governments and environmental groups.
- All the documents were available at the district office as well as the regional office in Prince George. About 10 copies of the *Data Package*, six copies of the *Analysis Report* and seven copies of the *Public Discussion Paper* were picked up.
- Advertisements were placed in seven local newspapers in the Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge and Fort St. John areas, advising of the availability of all documents for review by the public.
- Copies of all the documents were made available to the local media. One interview was conducted with the local newspaper, The Peace River Block News.
- Referrals were made to the Ministry of Forests website where documents were available to download.
- On November 15, 2002, a meeting was held in Dawson Creek with representatives of the Kelly Lake Settlement Society/Kelly Lake Ma-M-Way Cooperative. Three people attended.

The forest district and regional offices received one written submission relating to the *Data Package* and four submissions relating to the *Analysis Report* (see Appendix 1).

## Public Input

In this section, public input on the information presented in the Timber Supply Review

documents for the Dawson Creek TSA is summarized under the following headings:

- Data Package (and Information Report)
- Timber Supply Area Analysis Report
- Other comments

## Data Package

**Socio-economic Factors**
An individual submission recommends more wood be made available to small-scale operations. The individual suggests that small-scale operators create five times the number of jobs as large operators to produce the same amount of product. Wood utilization by small operators is also more efficient, according to this submission.

## Timber Supply Area Analysis Report

**Size of the Land Base**
The submission from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries (MAFF) expresses pleasure that the removal of some Agricultural Land Reserve lands from the timber harvesting land base has been considered. MAFF requests the opportunity to see the assumptions used and to discuss the results of the sensitivity analysis.

**First Nations**
In a joint submission, the Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations state they cannot meaningfully or effectively participate in consultations (such as the Timber Supply Review) unless they have the resources to undertake their own review and/or analysis. They express dismay that despite their repeated requests for capacity funding and despite many court decisions on the Crown's obligation to consult with First Nations, their rights, title and interests — and the legal obligations of the ministry — continue to be disregarded. The First Nations state they will insist on the Province's strict compliance with its legal obligations.

This joint submission also notes the importance of the Timber Supply Review and its impacts on their ability to exercise their Treaty and Aboriginal Rights guaranteed by Treaty 8, especially with regard to a sufficient land base to sustain their culture.

In its submission, the McLeod Lake Indian Band notes the recent announcement by the Treaty Negotiations Office that First Nations can access direct awards for timber sales. The Band says they have economic aspirations in the forest industry, and that as part of the Timber Supply Review, an allocation of 15 to 20 per cent of the AAC of the Dawson Creek TSA should be allocated to the First Nations program.

**Socio-economic Factors**
MAFF raises three issues of concern relating to socio-economic considerations, as follows:

- Is there a reason why the Timber Supply Review is not timed to utilize the most recent census results?
- There is an appearance of bias toward the timber industry with respect to the socio-economic profile. It ignores the fluctuations in the forest industry since the 1996 census but repeatedly points out the downturn in the mining industry since then.
- Figure 3 appears to aggregate direct and induced jobs differently than was done in the socio-economic analysis for the Dawson Creek Land and Resource Management Plan.

## Other Comments

Three submissions comment on factors or issues other than those specifically covered by Timber Supply Review documents. These comments are summarized in this section.

**Timber Supply Review Process**
MAFF asks if it's not possible to involve other

affected ministries in the earlier stages of the Timber Supply Review. With more time to respond, MAFF suggests that these ministries could provide information about their resources and objectives that may assist in the AAC determination.

**Allocation and Stumpage**

An individual says various practices of large operators should be considered when future timber supplies are allocated. The following examples are given:

- West Fraser is bringing in large volumes of out-of-province timber at bargain prices, at the expense of local contractors.
- Canfor shuts down when lumber prices drop, forgetting the record prices and profits of the previous years.

In addition, this submission says the low stumpage rate on aspen makes it difficult for small operators (e.g., woodlot holders) to market their wood to companies such as LP Chetwynd. The stumpage should be increased to reflect aspen's true value, according to this individual.

Chetwynd Forest Industries (CFI) says an increase in coniferous volume should not be allocated in a manner that increases manufacturing capacity in the region. The company recommends a combination of the following options:

- make volumes available on the market in the form of Section 20, Category 1, Small Business Sales.
- award several non-replaceable forest licences on a competitive basis. This may also create opportunities to resolve First Nations issues.

**Harvest Levels**

CFI says an increase in coniferous AAC would be good news for local mills if opportunities are created to meet more of their wood requirements locally (from within the TSA). This would create economic stability for their business, the local economy, and employees and contractors, according to the company.

However, CFI says it may be difficult to utilize the coniferous cut by the full 351,000 cubic metres in the short term due to operational, planning and timber supply constraints. The company recommends an incremental approach to utilizing the increase, such as an immediate increase of 200,000 cubic metres, followed by subsequent increases of 50,000 cubic metres.

# Appendix 1

# Submissions received by the Peace Forest District

## Submissions received on the Data Package

**General public**
one individual submission

## Submissions received on the Timber Supply Analysis Report

**First Nations**
Saulteau First Nations/West Moberly First Nations
McLeod Lake Indian Band

**Government agencies**
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries

**Forest industry**
Chetwynd Forest Industries